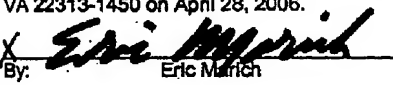


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<p align="center"><u>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</u></p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 28, 2006.</p> <p>X  By: Eric Matrich</p> <p>Dated: April 28, 2006</p>	<p align="right">Patent</p> <p align="center">Attorney Docket No.: Case 7073</p>
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of	:	SPLIT RING CASTING FOR BOILER
GEORGE H. HARTH, III	:	TUBES WITH PROTECTIVE SHIELDS
Filed: March 17, 2004	:	
Serial No.: 10/802,474	:	Confirmation No.: 5322
Art Unit: 3749	:	
Examiner: Gregory A. Wilson	:	Attorney Docket No.: Case 7073

MAIL STOP RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed October 28, 2005, Applicants submit herewith Form PTO/SB/30, Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the \$790 RCE fee required under 37 CFR §1.17(e) to Deposit Account No. 50-1813 as set forth in the RCE Transmittal.

In addition, Applicants hereby petition, under 37 CFR §1.136(a)(1), for a three (3) month extension of time within which to respond to the Final Office Action mailed October 28, 2005; that is up to and including April 28, 2006. The Commissioner is hereby

**AMENDMENT AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)****Attorney Docket No.****Case 7073****Patent Application Serial No. 10/802,474****Reply to Office Action mailed October 28, 2005****Art Unit 3749****Confirmation No. 5322****Page 2**

authorized to charge the sum of \$1020 for the three (3) month extension of time as required under 37 CFR §1.17(a)(3) to Deposit Account No. 50-1813 as set forth in the enclosed Transmittal.

In response to the Final Office Action mailed October 28, 2005, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks / Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.